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January 27, 2020

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Commissioner Robert G. Taub, Chairman
Commissioner Michael Kubayanda, Vice-Chairman
Commissioner Mark Acton
Commissioner Ann Fisher
Commissioner Ashley Poling
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Docket RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of Harvest Hope Food Bank, I am writing to urge you to reconsider your proposal to increase postal rates at several times the rate of inflation. These increases – which are estimated to reach seven percent per year, or 40 percent compounded over five years, will have a highly significant negative impact on our ability to continue our mission of providing for the needs of hungry people by gathering and sharing quality food with dignity, compassion and education. Last year, Harvest Hope served more than 1.6 million South Carolinians and distributed over 26.8 million meals in communities across 20 counties in our state.

Sending close to 100,000 direct mail pieces annually, most of our contributed income comes from direct mail. We also utilize the USPS to mail thank you postcards and letters to each donor for every donation. This is nearly 20,000 pieces mailed annually through the post office. These numbers don't include holiday cards and other event specific mail pieces. The proposed change would greatly affect our budget, which in turn would affect our ability to continue our mission and help feed our neighbors in need.

Given the negative impact this proposal will have on our organization, Harvest Hope Food Bank urges the Postal Regulatory Commission to reconsider this proposal.

Sincerely,

Wendy Broderick
Chief Executive Officer

Mission Statement

To provide for the needs of hungry people by gathering and sharing quality food with dignity, compassion and education.